IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 4 and 13-15, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject

matter, and amend Claims 1, 10, 16, and 18 as follows. The following is a complete listing of

claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): presented): A communication apparatus

connected to a communication network, said apparatus comprising:

destination designating means for designating a destination apparatus;

input means for inputting transmission information to be transmitted to the

destination apparatus designated by said destination designating means without using the

communication network;

facsimile communication means for transmitting the transmission information

inputted by said input means to a destination apparatus in accordance with facsimile

communication specifications;

encryption means for encrypting the transmission information inputted by said

input means without using the communication network, wherein the transmission information is

encrypted before being transmitted through the communication network to maintain

confidentiality of the transmission information;

electronic-mail communication means for transmitting the transmission

information inputted by said input means or encrypted by said encryption means to a destination

apparatus in accordance with electronic-mail specifications;

communication designating means for causing transmission of the transmission

information by selecting either said facsimile communication means or said electronic-mail

communication means;

security designating means for designating whether the transmission

information is confidential or not according to an operation of a ~~confidential button~~ console,

wherein ~~the confidential button~~ said console is used when confidentiality of the transmission

information is to be maintained; and

control means for controlling said facsimile communication means, said

encryption means, and said electronic-mail <u>communication</u> means such that, if the transmission

information has been designated as being confidential by said security designating means, said

facsimile communication means transmits the inputted transmission information to the

destination apparatus by facsimile transmission <u>using a private security function which enables</u>

<u>the inputted transmission information to be outputted by the destination apparatus when a correct</u>

<u>secret number is entered</u>, through the communication network <u>without the encryption of the</u>

<u>inputted transmission information by said encryption means,</u> when said facsimile communication

means has been designated by said communication designating means, and said electronic-mail

communication means sends the encrypted transmission information to the destination apparatus

by electronic mail through the communication network, when said electronic-mail

communication means has been designated by said communication designating means.

Claim 2 (previously presented): A computer-program product embodying a

computer program for implementing functions described in claim 1.

Claim 3 (original): A computer-readable recording medium storing a computer program for implementing functions described in claim 1.

Claim 4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when the transmission information has been designated as being confidential by said security designating means, said facsimile communication means checks to determine whether the destination apparatus possesses a private security function by inquiring as to whether the destination apparatus possesses the private security function, when a communication path to the destination apparatus is formed.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A computer-program product embodying a computer program for implementing functions described in claim 5.

Claim 7 (original): A computer-readable recording medium storing a computer program for implementing functions described in claim 5.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said security designating means makes a determination that the transmission information is confidential when transmission by a confidential communication is designated.

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Claim 9 (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said input means comprises a document reader and the transmission information is inputted by reading a document using the document reader.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A communication method in a communication apparatus connected to a communication network, said method selectively executing facsimile communication for transmitting transmission information to a destination apparatus in accordance with facsimile communication specifications and electronic-mail communication for transmitting transmission information to a destination apparatus in accordance with electronic-mail specifications, and said method comprising the following steps, in a case where the transmission information is to be transmitted to a destination apparatus as confidential information:

an apparatus designation step of designating a destination apparatus;

an input step of inputting transmission information to be transmitted to the destination apparatus designated in said designation step without using the communication network;

a security designation step of designating whether the inputted transmission information is confidential information or not according to an operation of a ~~confidential button~~ console, wherein the ~~confidential button~~ console is used when confidentiality of the transmission information is to be maintained;

a transmission step of transmitting the transmission information inputted in said input step to the destination apparatus as is by facsimile transmission, using a private

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security function which enables the inputted transmission information to be outputted by the destination apparatus when a correct secret number is entered, through the communication network without the encryption of the outputted transmission information, when communication is performed in accordance with facsimile communication and the transmission information has been designated as being confidential information; and

encrypting the transmission information inputted in said input step without using the communication network, if the transmission information has been designated as being confidential information, and then sending it to the destination apparatus by electronic mail through the communication network to maintain confidentiality of the transmission information, when communication is performed in accordance with electronic-mail communication.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A computer-program product embodying a computer program for implementing functions described in claim 10.

Claim 12 (original): A computer-readable recording medium storing a computer program for implementing functions described in claim 10.

Claims 13-15 (canceled).

Claim 16 (currently amended): The method according to claim [[13]] 10, wherein the transmission information is document information that has been obtained by reading a document.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the communication network includes at least one of a telephone network and a LAN.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A communication apparatus connected to a communication network, said apparatus comprising:

a destination designating unit adapted to designate a destination apparatus;

an input unit adapted to input transmission information to be transmitted to the destination apparatus designated by said destination designating unit without using the communication network;

a facsimile communication unit adapted to transmit the transmission information inputted by said input unit to a destination apparatus in accordance with facsimile communication specifications;

an encryption unit adapted to encrypt the transmission information inputted by said input unit without using the communication network, wherein the transmission information is encrypted before being transmitted through the communication network to maintain confidentiality of the transmission information;

an electronic-mail communication unit adapted to transmit the transmission information inputted by said input unit or encrypted by said encryption unit to a destination apparatus in accordance with electronic-mail specifications;

a communication designating unit adapted to cause transmission of the transmission information by selecting either said facsimile communication unit or said electronic-mail communication unit;

a security designating unit adapted to designate whether the transmission

information is confidential or not according to an operation of a ~~confidential button~~ console,

wherein ~~the confidential button~~ said console is used when confidentiality of the transmission

information is to be maintained; and

a control unit adapted to control said facsimile communication unit, said

encryption unit, and said electronic-mail communication unit such that, if the transmission

information has been designated as being confidential by said security designating unit, said

facsimile communication unit transmits the inputted transmission information to the destination

apparatus by facsimile transmission, using a private security function which enables the inputted

transmission information to be outputted by the destination apparatus when a correct secret

number is entered, through the communication network without the encryption of the inputted

transmission information by said encryption means, when said facsimile communication unit has

been designated by said communication designating unit, and said electronic-mail

communication unit sends the encrypted transmission information to the destination apparatus by

electronic mail through the communication network, when said electronic-mail communication

unit has been designated by said communication designating unit.